1	2	3	4	5
Sikkim	812	531	174	38.8
Tamil Nadu	110182	38880	28954	74.5
Tripura	5977	2333	1148	49.2
Uttar Pradesh	221499	171575	69199	40.3
Uttaranchal	11959	8962	644	7.2
West Bengal	121667	69226	34696	50.1
Group of UT's	2325	732	372	50.8
All India	1478988	893504	434242	48.6

Source: NSS Report No. 498

Implementation of PM package

1973. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PMO has issued any guidelines to States or district collectors for the implementation of the PM package to farmers;

(b) whether the PMO has received any requests from the State Governments or district collectors to issue clear guidelines for the utilization of the PM package; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has issued specific guidelines to the concerned State Governments and District Collectors regarding utilization of funds released from Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) under the Rehabilitation Package for identified 31 districts in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra. Funds from PMNRF @ Rs. 50.00 Lakh for each District have also been placed at the disposal of the concerned Collectors for providing assistance to needy debt-stressed farmers and their families, for expenditure in connection with health and education especially of children. After issue of these guidelines, there

were some requests made by the Collectors of Wayanad, Belgaum, Khammam Districts of Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh respectively regarding the utilization of funds and they were apprised that utilization of the funds was to be regulated in the manner prescribed in the guidelines issued by the PMO.

GDP *vis-a-vis* Research in agriculture sector

†1974. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether GDP growth rate of agriculture is estimated to be 2.7 per cent during 2006-07 in comparison to 6.0 per cent in 2005-06; the reasons for such decline;

(b) whether the agriculture sector is facing constant decline as farmers are not able to recover even their costs and are committing suicides;

(c) whether no research-oriented trends were encouraged in the agriculture sector during the last twenty years; and

(d) whether Government would consider to establish Central Councils in each State to conduct research on the agricultural products of that State on the lines of Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) According to the latest advance estimates released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO), the annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from the agricultural and allied sectors of forestry, logging and fishing in real terms (aM 999-2000 prices) stands at 2.7 percent during 2006-07 *vis-a-vis* 6.0 percent during 2005-06. The growth rate of 2.7 percent for the year 2006-07 is on the higher base level growth of 6.0 percent for the year 2005-06. The growth performance in the agricultural sector shows wide variations from time to time, with maximum growth of 10.0 percent in the year 2003-04 and minimum growth of (—) 7.2 percent in the year 2002-03 during the period 2002-03 to 2006-07. The Government of India has recently approved a rehabilitation package for 31 suicide prone districts in the four states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala for distressed farmers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.